

APR 2 1959

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-00001

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Letters to The Times

To Send Newsmen to China

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

For a decade it has not been possible for American newsmen to enter mainland China to observe and report to the American public. This constitutes a violation of our fundamental right to be informed about an entire quarter of the world's population. It also amounts to denying ourselves information that may prove vital to our own security.

We believe that the continued denial to American newspaper men of the right to go to Communist China is a shocking breach of our traditional faith in a free press as well as a grave disservice to the American people.

We call upon American news publishers to defend the freedom of the press by insisting that American newsmen be permitted to travel to mainland China. We urge the American people and the Congress to ask for a reversal of the prohibitory policy of our Government. This would mean, of course, that the State Department would reciprocally permit Chinese newsmen to enter the United States.

We have sufficient confidence in the American system to believe that if the Communist Chinese, through legal access, learn more about our country, this will be to our advantage rather than disadvantage.

HENRY CABOT, HERBERT GEZORK,
ROLAND B. GITTELSON, FRANCIS G. GOODALE, JOHN HARRIMAN, JOHN WESLEY LORD, LOUIS M. LYONS, MAX MILLIKAN, WALTER G. MUELOER, JOHN B. PAINE Jr., EDWIN O. REISCHAUER, ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER Jr., GREGORY SMITH.

Cambridge, Mass. March 30, 1959.

CPYRGHT